Erickson Educational Foundation

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 5 NO. 2 SUMMER, 1972

NEWS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

Word comes from Dr. O. M. deVaal, Amsterdam, that 100 individuals—mostly transexual—are receiving care in an out-patient department of the Princess Beatrix Hospital at the new gender unit, Nederlands Gender Centrum, with the cooperation of specialists from the fields of medicine, psychiatry, antropogenetics, surgery, law and public health.

Dr. de Vaal, author of *Man of Vrouw?* (**Man or Woman?**) published in Dutch by Wetenschappelijke Uitgeverij N. V., reports they are cooperating with research centers of various universities and that the Royal Medical Society, Utrecht, changing its former attitude, will publish a new set of guidelines for general practitioners.

LEGAL LANDMARK

The first Netherlands legal change of name and sex status was obtained recently for an individual who underwent sex reassignment operation from male to female. "She is now legally a woman and has the right to marry," reported Dr. de Vaal. "This is very stimulating for us."

WORD FROM "DOWN UNDER"

"As a regular reader of your Newsletter I am glad to be in a position to offer a small contribution from this part of the world. At long last and with the steady injection of clinical knowledge from John Money and Ira Pauly on their various visits, there has been a steady growth of professional and public support into the problems of transvestism and transexualism. A symposium of papers on the topic was published recently and most gratifying of all was a nationwide key television documentary programme that revealed something of the problems that people experience if they are caught in a psychosexual dilemma.

"Perhaps in the not too distant future I may be able to report the establishment of gender identity clinics of the kind that you have helped to establish elsewhere in the world."

A. J. W. Taylor
Professor of Clinical Psychology
Victoria University of Wellington
Wellington, New Zealand

PROGRESS IN NEW YORK CITY

The establishment of a gender identity evaluation clinic is now in process at Lincoln Hospital, Bronx, sponsored by the Department of Psychiatry which is under the aegis of Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Specialists in the field of psychiatry, endocrinology, psychology, etc., are forming a team for evaluation, counseling and treatment (non-surgical).

Sparked by the efforts of clinician-counselor Mrs. Naomi Smith of the department and EEF cooperation, intermural seminars on gender identity disorientation and management are in process which will widen in scope in the Fall. Mrs. Smith and a resident psychiatrist conduct group therapy sessions every Wednesday at 5:15 PM for transexuals seeking help.

IN BOSTON

A Gender Identity Service has been established in Boston to help individuals who need counseling and treatment because of a transexual condition. Seed-funded by EEF, the Gender Identity Service is located at 419 Boylston Street, headquarters of the Homophile Community Health Service, and has enlisted the cooperation of a distinguished group of professionals in a variety of disciplines. The service is the result of the concerned efforts of Mrs. Deborah Feinbloom, a doctoral student in sociology at Boston College.

While the sex reassignment operation is not currently available in Boston, both preoperative and postoperative counseling will be given.

IN CHICAGO

A group of about 135 attended a tutorial discussion on transexualism led by Dr. Marie Mehl at the Midwestern Regional Conference of the American Humanistic Psychology Association on April 30. Dr. Mehl interviewed a female-to-male preoperative transexual now living and working as a male. Three male-to-female preoperative patients in counseling at the Gender Identity Clinic in Chicago, a private consulting service. were interviewed by the Clinic director. The EEF film, "I Am Not This Body," was shown following the scheduled time limit—on request—so sustained was the interest in the subject.

VERTICAL FILE

WITHDRAWN

INSTITUTE FOR SEX RESEARCH, INC.

JUL 6 1972

TABLE AT THE PLAZA

A postcard from Dr. Harry Benjamin on his Spring European trip reminded us of a recent tea with him at his regular table in the Palm Court. Learning that day was his 87th birthday, we knew that we had the perfect birthday greeting for him—a joyous photograph of one of his former transexual patients and her new husband. The picture was warmly and gratefully inscribed. It was a moving moment when we presented it to him as a token of the love and gratitude of the thousands of transexuals—his children—to whom his pioneer work and book, THE TRANSSEXUAL PHENOMENON, had brought hope and help. (ZRS)

IN NEW HAVEN

A seminar on transexualism was presented in March at Psychosomatic Grand Rounds of the Yale-Dana Psychiatric Clinic, University Medical Center. Moderated by Mrs. Connie Margolin of the Clinic, the panel included Dr. Marie Mehl, Mrs. Deborah Feinbloom of the Boston Gender Identity Counseling Center and "Dorothy," a preoperative transexual. Revealed in the discussion was the fact that Dorothy was an alumnus of Yale and had been on a varsity sports team some years ago.

A month later in April, at Psychosomatic Grand Rounds at the Yale-Dana Psychiatric Clinic, "Psychoendocrine Aspects of Transexualism" was the subject of a presentation by Dr. Anke Ehrhardt of the State University of New York in Buffalo. Dr. Ehrhardt is co-author with Dr. John Money of the EEF-sponsored book, "MAN AND WOMAN: DIMORPHISM AND DIFFERENTIATION OF GENDER IDENTITY," now in publication by Johns Hopkins Press.

IN INDIANA

Dr. Anke Ehrhardt recently gave two lectures in the Department of Sociology, Purdue University, Lafayette: Fetal and Postnatal Hormonal Influence on Female Behavior; and I.Q.-Related Abilities and Hormones.

The course, "Men and Women in Modern Society," conducted by Dr. Harold T. Christensen (now on sabbatical) and Dr. Kathryn Johnsen, once again featured the annual visit of a postoperative transexual in its educational program.

ADVISORY BOARD ADDITION

We are pleased to announce that Bertha Santos, Ph.D., has joined our Advisory Board. Dr. Santos is in private practice as a psychoanalyst and psychotherapist in New York City and is a training analyst on the faculty of the National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis where she recently gave a presentation on transexualism.

PLASMA TESTOSTERONE STUDY

A new project has been undertaken by Drs. Michael Sherwood, Dept. of Psychiatry, Harvard University, Robert M. Rose and R. L. Pillard, Dept. of Psychiatry, Boston University, assisted by EEF, on the study of plasma testosterone in transexuals, homosexuals and heterosexual subjects.

Recent research has indicated significant differences in such levels between heterosexual and homosexual males, varying over the course of the day from day to day and showing sensitivity to emotional stresses. The current study will utilize the latest technical developments for accurate measurement and factor control.

IN SAN FRANCISCO

The National Transexual Counseling Unit has moved to a walk-in office at 243 Turk St., San Francisco. Assisted by an EEF grant, it operates as a non-profit counseling and referral service aiding individuals with gender identity problems.

In addition to continuing its close contact with Elliot Blackstone of the San Francisco Police Department Community Relations Office, the association has helped to establish working relationships with other State and local agencies.

TRANSEXUAL FORUM AT GLIDE

A one-day program exploring the entire spectrum of the transexual phenomenon was scheduled for May 13th by the National Sex Forum, Glide Urban Center in San Francisco. Among the speakers were Richard M. Green, M.D., co-editor with John Money of **Transsexualism and Sex Reassignment**, and R. D. Stemfel, Jr., M.D., Chairman of the Pediatrics Dept., University of California, Davis.

Speaking of "Glide" we wish to commend the directors for their wide contribution to the cause of education in human sexuality, not only to the participants and members of the helping professions through the forums, but through the production and distribution of their films.

IN SARASOTA

In response to a request from the Manatee Guidance Clinic in Sarasota, and various agencies in the southwestern and central Florida areas, an EEF-sponsored symposium led by Dr. Marie Mehl took place on May 19, 1972. All aspects of the transexual problem were covered, psychological, sociological and medical. Three transexuals were interviewed and the University of Minnesota Research Project film was shown to a professional audience consisting of Vocational Rehabilitation, Federal and State Parole and Probation office representatives as well as members of the medical, psychiatric and psychological professions.

MINNESOTA FILM HONORED

The University of Minnesota Transexual Research Project movie, completed this year, received the 1971 film award at the National American Urological Association Meeting in Chicago. The production which recounts a five-year study of 25 male transexuals, reviews surgical procedures and results and is an interim report on how well the total project is faring. It was also presented at the American College of Surgeons Annual Meeting in Atlantic City recently.

The discussions following the screenings, comments Dr. Colin Markland, a producer of the film, showed an improved attitude toward the role of transexual surgery. He further suggests ". . . the need for continued caution, the need for further protocol studies to answer many unsolved questions, and the importance of doing this work in controlled surroundings such as those found in Universities where a team approach using psychiatrists, psychologists, surgeons and social workers can evaluate the whole program."

Dr. Donald Hastings, research project director, and Dr. Markland agreed that they continue to feel encouraged and satisfied with the progress of the program so far.

Dr. Markland believes that recent workshops in transexualism have so increased understanding of it in the urological field that any individual who may have this condition would do well to get in touch with the urology department of any major medical school.

WORD FROM WESTERN CANADA

We appreciate the response from H. J. Miller, Ph.D., Winnipeg, to our call for activity news. We quote in part, as follows:

"I am doing a study on 18 transexually oriented people. With a gross population of 1,000,000 (in an isolated region) I have available a parts-per-million structure comparable to the Hopkins Study, but directed at a non-transient group.

"The feature that highlights the study is my male-to-female ratio, 11 females to 7 males, with an average age of 25.3 to 27.1, respectively. This study in an almost ideal controlled area reverses the statistics as to the male-to-female ratio.

"Another feature that has come to light is the educational level of the group. Out of the 18, 16 have completed Grade 12, the other 2, Grade 10. 7 of the first group are university graduates, again a reversal to the norm. All of the group are either employed or continuing on with their education—again a highly unusual study group."

[*NOTE: We are always glad to receive information of interest to our readers.*]

IN NEBRASKA

A hundred medical students of Creighton University Medical School in Omaha, with representatives from the University of Nebraska Medical School attended a seminar on transexualism, April 26th, sponsored by the Division of Behavioral Sciences, Department of Psychiatry, Duane Spiers, Director.

Following the seminar which was presented by Dr. Marie Mehl with the cooperation of two evaluated transexuals, there was a small, informal meeting with twelve transexuals who are currently receiving professional guidance and help in the Gender Identity consultation and evaluation center of the Creighton Medical School and who have regular meetings which provide personal, vocational and mutual help.

COLLEGE CLASS PRESENTATIONS

Professors of classes in human sexuality are seeking seminars on transexualism presented by EEF New York Office. Graduate and undergraduate students this spring at Wm. Paterson State College, N. J.; State University of N. Y. at Stony Brook; Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, N. J.; Adelphi College, N. Y.; Hunter College, N. Y., and Queens Community College, Bayside, N. Y., heard Zelda Suplee present the subject and moderate forum discussions with transexual individuals present.

Such programs are available in the Metropolitan Area with or without the film, "I Am Not This Body," which may be rented at a $35.00 fee.

Because of the rapid growth of teaching human sexuality in college curricula, we are preparing for program requests from other parts of the country. We would be glad to hear from any transexual under professional care who is willing to cooperate in an educational program that may be scheduled in her/his area.

EDUCATING THE SEX EDUCATORS

An important activity in the current scene and a prime item on the EEF agenda is to disseminate information on gender role disorientation.

On March 25th we sponsored a seminar at the N. Y. Theological Seminar with a panel consisting of Dr. Charles Ihlenfeld, associate of Dr. Harry Benjamin, Zelda R. Suplee, and four transexuals. This was presented in response to the request by the Community Sex Information and Education Service of New York City for our cooperation in their training program of 75 volunteer workers who man the 24-hour Service switchboard.

Informal workshops on the subject conducted by Dr. Marie Mehl at the National Sex Institute of the American Association of Sex Educators and Counselors in Washington, D. C., were a part of our continuing educational program.

Armed with informative material, Zelda Suplee attended the Dallas Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in May.

FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON HORMONES

While the world literature emphasizes treatment of male transexuals, Dr. Josef Hynie of Prague reports his heavier concentration on cases of "virile women," which "they know more thoroughly."

At an assembly of doctors and lawyers possibilities of treatment were demonstrated. In translation, Dr. Hynie stated: "Individuals have tried to subdue the masculine characteristics and tendencies of the female transexual with the help of estrogen. The treated persons, however, felt worse than before. Inner equilibrium became worse rather than better. They demanded masculine hormones and when furnished with only weak androgens in lozenge form they felt inwardly satisfied.

"Likewise, transexuals possessing male sex organs could not transform their female tendencies through use of androgens. . . It is often amazing what sensitivity the application of opposing hormones offers the transexual and how psychic reactions are favorably produced from the reverse hormones. To be sure, the concerned do not always publicize these results and conceal them from the public at large and at work."

IN MIAMI

A 5-day program in May on Human Sexuality sponsored by the University of Miami Medical School, Division of Family Medicine, included Dr. Marie Mehl on two panel programs: Variations of Sexual Behavior—Transvestism and Transexualism, with patients' participation; and Medical Management of Patients Presenting Themselves with Sexual Problems.

In preparation for this program a month before, the Medical School conducted a course given by representatives of the National Training Laboratory to ten community workers in small-group leadership to help medical students work out feelings regarding the explicit materials presented during the five-day program.

HALF-WAY HOUSE

"Stonewall" in Seattle is a new residential, rehabilitation center for men and women with psychosexual problems who have been in trouble—parolees, probationers, drug abusers, alcoholics, etc. The Erickson Educational Foundation has given a grant for the educational program of the center whose brochure states: "In our belief, sexual orientation is a primary element in one's personality, which, when denied, often leads to neurotic and anti-social behavior . . . . The treatment program is based on the philosophy that self-knowledge and self-acceptance are the foundations of a creative life. Stonewall provides a family environment of mutual trust and support to help the individual learn new patterns of self-expression."

Inquiries and contributions are welcome. Address: Stonewall, 4016 37th Avenue South, Seattle, Wn. 98118.

ON THE AGENDA

June 1—Lincoln Hospital, Bronx, N. Y. EEF-sponsored inter-disciplinary seminar on transexualism, Dept. of Psychiatry.

June 3-4, New York City; June 6-7, Philadelphia; June 10-11, Arlington, Va. The Institute for Comprehensive Medicine seminars on "Management of Sexual Inadequacy" will include a presentation by Dr. Leo Wollman, "A Comprehensive Approach to Transexualism, Intersexuality and Transvestism," with live subjects and films.

June 7—Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, N. Y. Presentation on transexualism by Dr. Charles E. Ihlenfeld, associate of Dr. Harry Benjamin.

1973 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The Third International Symposium on Gender Identity, sponsored by the Erickson Educational Foundation, will be held September 8-9-10, 1973, at the Hotel Libertas, Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, a modern seaside resort hotel on the Adriatic.

Professionals are invited to attend and to submit abstracts of papers if participation on the program is desired.

ONE, INC. 20TH ANNIVERSARY

"A mystic bond of brotherhood makes all men one," wrote Carlyle and inspired the name of the pioneer organization devoted to social and educational services in the homophile field.

The 3-day Midwinter Annual Conference in Los Angeles included reports from social scientists, the clergy, and a salute to the progress of ONE and to W. Dorr Legg, termed "the personification of ONE."

EEF-assisted projects were discussed including reports by Robert V. Deisher, M.D., and historian Dr. Vern Bullough. Grantee students who attended the special course in studies of homosexuality at California State College at Long Beach last Fall, taught by Dr. Howard Fradkin, Sociology Department, discussed their personal attitudes and understanding developed by the course.

Dorr Legg has been appointed an Associate Professor of Sociology, teaching "Sociology of Sexual Behavior" at the college which has recently been re-designated California State University at Long Beach.

EXPANSION IN SEATTLE

Because of the widened scope of the EEF grantee, Seattle Counseling Service for Homosexuals, the name has been changed to Seattle Counseling Center for Sexual Minorities, reports Director Robert V. Deisher, M.D.

SUGGESTED READING

THE TRANSEXUAL PHENOMENON by Harry Benjamin, M.D., New York, Julian Press.

TRANSSEXUALISM AND SEX REASSIGNMENT, edited by Richard Green, M.D., and John Money, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Md.

"WHEN A WOMAN BECOMES A MAN"

The June 1972 issue of SEXOLOGY included the above article by Charles L. Ihlenfeld, M.D. It is an admirable presentation of the process which "involves taking hormones and undergoing surgery—perhaps even constructing a penis," which is so far merely a surgical compromise.

Reprints of this article will be available at the Baton Rouge EEF Office.

KRIPPNER USSR REPORT IN SR

"Parapsychology in the USSR" by Dr. Stanley Krippner and Richard Davidson, in the March 18, 1972, issue of SATURDAY REVIEW, reports on their 1971 EEF-sponsored trip to meet with Russian parapsychologists and to observe some of their research first-hand as well as to report on US activities in the field.

FROM A COUNSELOR

In addition to thorough evaluation and living and working in the role of the opposite sex, professional counseling is often essential prior to and following surgery, states Rosalind Golembe, ACSW, Assistant Director of Social Service, Downstate Medical Center, State University of New York, a conviction shared by her patients.

"With professional help these and other questions can be looked at thoroughly. What shall I tell my family? When? What is it really like to be a woman or a man? How will I make it in the straight world? What will I say if people ask about my past life? The clearer someone is the better his chance for finding happiness in his new role. All too often transexual patients feel that surgery will be the end of all their problems . . . ."

IN BROOKLYN

Since 1970 Dr. Leo Wollman has been giving lecture-demonstrations on transexualism to teachers taking New York City Board of Education inservice courses in Family Life and Sex Education. His most recent lecture on March 7, 1972, had the cooperation of five transexuals and relatives. This took place a month before his hour-long television presentation about transexualism on the Channel 5, Boston, program "From A to Zenker."

RECENTLY IN PRINT

. . . "The Brave New World of the Transexuals" by Russell Roth, February 21, 1972 issue of MODERN MEDICINE. (EEF reprints available.)

. . . "Trapped in the Wrong Body: Body vs. Mind in Search of True Gender Identification" by Margo Harakas, April 18, 1972, issue of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., SUN-SENTINEL. Comprehensive interview with Dr. Marie Mehl, EEF Director of Research and Education.

. . . "Treatment of Boyhood 'Transsexualism'—An Interim Report of Four Years' Experience" by Richard Green, M.D., Lawrence E. Newman, M.D., and Robert J. Stoller, M.D., ARCHIVES OF GENERAL PSYCHIATRY, March, 1972.

. . . "Sex Change Operations: Out of the Woodwork" by Judy Ramsey, May, 1972, issue of MEDICAL OPINION, Vol. 1, No. 1.

. . . Film reviews. "Transexual Theme in 'I Want What I Want' "—L. A. TIMES, March 25, 1972.

". . . It is an excellent, forthright English drama on the agonizing predicament of the transexual . . . few if any films have ever succeeded so well in conveying the sense of isolation a member of a sexual minority experiences continually and in portraying the courage required of such a person simply in facing everyday life."

. . . "Transexuals in Limbo: The Search for a Legal Definition of Sex" MARYLAND LAW REVIEW, Vol. XXXI, No. 3, 1971. Univ. of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, Md.

. . . "Transexualism, Sex Reassignment Surgery and the Law" by Douglas Smith, CORNELL LAW REVIEW, Vol. 56: 963, 1971. (Reprints available from Baton Rouge EEF Office, $1.00 per copy.)

. . . Selected Proceedings of the First International Symposium on Gender Identity, London, July, 1969, appear in ARCHIVES OF SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, Vol. 1, No. 2, 1971.

. . . "He and She: The Sex Hormones and Behavior" by Maggie Scarf, N. Y. TIMES MAGAZINE, May 7, 1972, "Recent research indicates that the interplay of sex hormones in the fetus not only determines sexuality, but may influence later masculine or feminine sexual behavior." This comprehensive and scientifically oriented article includes an interview in depth with Dr. Anke Ehrhardt.

. . . Revised editions of the following EEF pamphlets are available: **Information for the Family of the Transexual; Legal Aspects of Transexualism; An Outline of Medical Management of the Transexual** (available only to medical professionals). Requests for pamphlets and relevant reprints should be addressed to our Baton Rouge office with $1.00 enclosure to cover handling and postage.

ADVICE FROM EXPERIENCE

A letter from postoperative transexual MB states, in part: "In the case of transexuals, both S—— and I recommend the following course of action: 'See a psychiatrist before starting any hormone treatments. Pay off all debts and start saving. Separate from spouse as soon as possible. Start electrolysis and hormone therapy together, but continue male role. When savings, electrolysis and hormones have reached desired end, assume full female role full time. Get job as female. After a year, consider surgery, if still happy.' "

ON TRANSVESTISM

It has been reported to EEF by some transvestites who have received controlled amounts of female hormones that they find the urgency to cross-dress dissipates and often decide that they are no longer transvestites. The compulsion returns, however, we are told, when they stop taking female hormones.

This is mentioned as a caution to "TVs" to consult their medical practitioner before making what may be an unwarranted decision under the effects of either temporary state.

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